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0 administering is at least during an entire period when the mammal is or is suspected to be under conditions which are stressful or which may increase the risk of formation of ulcers.

34 **Claim 16** (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is in the form of a formulation for controlled release.

Cancel claim 20. ✓

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 19 and 21 to 33, all other claims having been cancelled.

Claims 1 to 20 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the office action.

It is believed that the amended claims now clearly point out Applicant's invention and are free of the Examiner's objections thereto. The expression "in need thereof" has been used in the